DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, this is a scheme started when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... This Navodaya School Scheme, as the Minister has endorsed himself, is a very good scheme. It was started with one school in every district with a purpose to enable the State Governments to copy the school programme and convert their schools into this kind to provide modern education. What the are steps taken by the Government of India to help the State Governments to copy their schools and covert their schools into Navodaya schools scheme to provide modern education in rural areas?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is a question relating to Navodaya School. It is not a question relating to what steps the Government is going to take to help schools outside the Navodaya School system.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I just mentioned to the Minister the purpose for which these Navodaya Schools were started and the Minister says that it is not related to question. Anyway. In Navodaya Schools, which are now being applauded by the Minister, and in Kendriya Vidyalayas teachers are not getting pension. Will he consider the request of lakhs of teachers for pension?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I would request the hon. Member to bring the issue before me and I will certainly look into it. But I might just mention to the hon. Member in the context of what he had asked that we are, for example, planning to set up six thousand model schools which will be in every district and every taluka in this country. Sir, 3,500 of those model schools will be set up by the Government itself, and, these will be better than the Navodaya Vidyalayas, and, these will be in addition to the Navodaya Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas, and, 2,500 of them will be set up through public-private partnership. We are going to do that.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: We will welcome that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Booking of tickets on fake names

*321. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of operation of touts who reportedly buy a large number of tickets in fictitious names and sell them at a premium, allegedly in connivance with some departmental staff;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended by her Ministry during the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, some cases of purchasing tickets by touts

in fictitious names, do come to notice of the Ministry of Railways. As a result of checks conducted by the zonal railways, the number of touts apprehended during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of touts apprehended
2007-08	2562
2008-09	2521
2009-10	1483
(upto October,09)	

Railway staff, if found conniving with touts are taken up stringently under the Disciplinary and Appeal Rules.

(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, new trains and special trains are run and the carrying capacity of the existing trains augmented. Upto September 2009, 22748 special trains were run as compared to 17290 special trains in the same period of the previous year, an increase of about 31%. Further, 32 new trains have been introduced and 263 coaches on 114 pairs of trains have been augmented upto September 2009. Besides, regular preventive checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. In addition, checks are also conducted in trains to apprehend cases of passengers travelling on transfer of tickets and such passengers are charged as without ticket. The checks are intensified during peak rush and festival periods. Touts so apprehended are prosecuted under the provision of the law. In addition, travelling public is educated through various media to desist purchasing tickets from unauthorized people. To facilitate easier booking of accommodation, reservation can now be done through internet, e-ticketing, post offices, petrol pumps, etc.

Setting up of Utra Mega Steel Projects

*323. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering the concept of promoting ultra mega steel projects on the lines of ultra mega power projects to ensure adequate steel capacity addition;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when a decision on the setting up of ultra mega steel projects is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Representations from Honb'le Shri C. Ramchandriah, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Dhram Pal Sabharwal, MP, Rajya Sabha as well as some of the steel companies have been received in the Ministry of Steel regarding Ultra Mega Steel Project, Although, there is no concept of Ultra Mega Steel Projects in the National Steel